

ANNUAL REPORTS TO VESTRY

February 24, 2019

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Parish Statistics 2018

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Households	209	201	185	189	186	190
Average Sunday Attendance	*99	87	82	89	76	74
Christmas	171	184	171	198	161	164
Easter	181	175	146	153	126	139
Baptized	6	0	2	11	3	7
Confirmed	0	0	0	0	0	
Marriages	5	0	2	0	0	3
Deaths	10	12	13	7	7	12

* The calculation of Average Sunday Attendance for 2013 does not include the six Sundays that summer when services were held at St Michael and All Angels' and at St Richard's. The attendance at these services in previous years is significantly less than those held during other seasons of the year. This calculation does include the three Sunday when the other churches worshipped along with St Mark's, yielding a much higher than normal attendance. The net effect of these irregularities is to make the calculated average higher than it would have been had we not engaged in joint worship. This might mistakenly lead to the impression that attendance increased in 2013, which is not really the case.

Deaths

Nellie Amrud
Ray Allen
J Gordon Anderson
Dena Burley
Flo Clarke
Doreen Craig
Ruth Dubrule
Vera Mackin
Bart Robinson
Dave Robertson
Shirley Tokessy
Sinclair Volk

Baptized

Mason Beaudoin
Sam Plessl
Fox Greer
Max Bordman
Kira Zacour
Alexander Bawden
William Bawden

Lay Assistants at Communion

Audia Barnett	Michael Perkin
Joy Bowerman	Sheila Pitt
Les Cundell	Georgia Roberts
Jeff Hall	Keith Wilkins
Jenny Morphey	Brenda Zanin
Janis Perkin	

Report of the Interim Priest In Charge

While I am hardly in a position to report on all of 2018 having been with you from October to the end of January, 2019 and only in a limited capacity, I have been asked for some comments on what I have seen so far.

Of course the major concern has been the health of our Rector, Jessica. It has become apparent that she will need much more time to heal than we expected and hoped, and she and her family are and will be very much in our prayers. As a result, the Bishop has appointed the Venerable Rob Davis to be Priest In Charge beginning in February, 2019. This will be half time so that the parish does not lose momentum by a lack of priestly leadership. I was growing more concerned that such a lack was resulting in mere maintenance rather than active leadership and support of the community. While I would have enjoyed staying with you longer, I had made a commitment to be elsewhere (Parish of Huntley – West Ottawa) long before being asked to come to St Mark's.

The Parish has run smoothly despite having a part time priest and this speaks well for the community. Joy Bowerman, our Parish Administrator, does much more than one might reasonably expect of a part time position, indicating her care for the parish in so many ways. With part time clergy this role is even more important as a conduit of communications and logistic and personal support. I/We could not have done without her. Our wardens, Pauline Adams, Cynthia Greer and Bruce Lodge have also been excellent and have kept things running smoothly and with a sense of deep devotion and care for the ministry. The financial side of things is overseen by our Administrator and Georgia Roberts in a most exemplary way, which makes for great confidence. Furthermore, there are a myriad of others who step up with their talents and gifts so freely and joyously offered. This is not only healthy but should be a source of great pride, in the best sense, for all of us.

We have excellent people doing so many things. If the parish is to thrive, however, we need everyone in our parish community to step up, as possible, by financial support, presence, and with a commitment to hold each other up in prayer. Of course there are many who through sickness or age cannot be with us in person, but they are always with us, as they are able, and we need to be with them always. I am very impressed with the way many of you care for those who cannot join us in person and we need to be with others who may not be similarly supported. This is the responsibility of both the clergy and the rest of us for we are all the Ministry Team of St Mark's. I have enjoyed my home visits. As our congregation ages we need to make sure that this is done in such a way that no one is left behind.

My primary involvement has been with our Sunday liturgy, which involves so many of us. Unseen yet ever present is a truly excellent Altar Guild adorning the sanctuary with beauty and care. There are readers and intercessors and altar servers and then there is the music and the choir under the exemplary talent and care of Ariane Dind. I have been in parishes with good music and, as the

diocesan bishop, I have seen and heard much. The music at St Mark's is exemplary! Indeed, one of our distinguishing features.

Another strength is our children's ministry. Sunday Schools are rare these days and the numbers are few but St Mark's has persisted in creating a loving space for children, under the devoted care of Kate Greer-Close. This is a program that we really need to continually support and resource. A part of this is the always creative and informative Children's Time with Janis Perkin, after a delightful junior choir anthem. As in most children's talks, there are 'take aways' for the adults as well. I know that your new Interim Priest, Fr. Rob, is more gifted in this ministry than myself and may also be involved.

I came at the beginning of the new initiative: "Coffee, Company and Conversation" and will have been there at the beginning of a new season. This is proving to be a great success and is an ideal program for a congregation in an aging community within and beyond. I remember from my time as the diocesan bishop that St Mark's had always done seniors' ministry well. This will become even more important in the future and should be well resourced.

I do notice buildings. Even retired bishops do that, as care and upkeep for the place where the parish and the wider community gathers is important, inside and out. This is community space and that is one thing that from ancient times the Church has contributed to the neighbourhood. The physical plant does claim more of our resources than we would like. Alas, that is true everywhere but we need to provide for this without compromising ministry, and that is a matter of stewardship in the widest sense – financial and personal. We are grateful to people like Paul Greer, who just attends to so many things. Would that there were more to help with facilities. But we can all do that by providing financial resources and 2019 will be the time for a financial stewardship campaign. We can all get behind this and let it be one of the ways that we can support the ministry in and from our parish for we are a part of something much larger - the Kingdom of God where, to quote the psalmist: "Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other." (Psalm 85:10)

It has been nice being with you. Thank you so much. I will remember fondly my time at St Mark's.

+Peter

Interim Priest in Charge
October 2018 to January 2019

Warden's Report

The year 2018 began as usual, keeping Christmas until after the Epiphany Crèche Sunday when we were all invited to bring our various nativity scenes. We also enjoyed a breakfast together, thanks to Brian and Leanne Harrison, Jane Delroy, and Sheila Pitt. These are very much appreciated.

Our annual ecumenical service of unity was very well attended, and we were the hosting parish. After nightmares of no food, we were inundated, and had a really good time together. It is lovely to have the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church with us, as well as Madonna della Risurrezione. It seems a little strange that out of all the churches around we worship with 2 that are so culturally diverse. The Antiochian Orthodox church didn't join us as their priest had been sick, but maybe another year.

Lent started mid-February, with a very successful pancake supper thanks to Kate and Steve Close and their large crew and the burning of the palms for the next day's Ash Wednesday service. Flames certainly bring out the child in us. It was also Jessica's family's first experience of it.

Throughout Lent our focus was the Visioning we were leading up to at the end of April. Please see Visioning 2018 (page 10) for all the details, of visiting preachers, each part of the 5 Marks of Mission.

For a few years we have enjoyed celebrating St Mark's Day with a special service and lunch, and this year was no exception. Profit from it was given to Cornerstone, towards adopting a room. We also gave money to them from the 50th Annual Art Show, and Lenten outreach. Our total donation was \$5,543. Many thanks to Georgia and her workers for the art show, and to card party experts Carol Russell and Patricia Sinclair, who are making the card party an annual event.

May marked the anniversary of Rev Jessica's first year with us. She had said that she wanted to go through a year before considering any changes, and the success of the visioning really helped her feel she was well established. We maintained the 2 Seniors' Eucharist and Luncheons in May and November, and both were well attended. Thank you to the Wellness Committee, led by Judy Darling.

As our normal routine went into a slowdown, we were joined by children from the daycare located at Carleton Memorial United Church. They spent the whole summer with us as has been their usual practice for a few years now, and have been pleasant renters.

Rev. Jessica returned from holiday, and 2 weeks later suffered a heart attack. This has been devastating for her and her family, but it caught us at a time when we thought that the visioning experience would lead us through the fall to something refreshing, renewing, and help us expand our horizon. Rev Jeff Hall was able to lead a weekly study session, "Invited" which he and Jessica had intended to share. We feel very fortunate that he was willing to take that on, so thank you Jeff.

During this Fall, the Vitality Committee put on a dinner, with a concert performed by the Valley men male voice choir, which was very much appreciated and the time together enjoyed, as always. They also organized a concert by the Stairwell Carollers in December which was well attended. We would like to thank the Vitality Group for bringing us together for fun events, when we were down, and also for raising money to help our empty coffers. Thanks go to Brian Harrison, who was the first chair, and to Margaret Lodge, Penny Miller, Maria Padin, Kate Greer-Close, Cynthia Greer, and to Suzanne Bisson, who recently joined us. It was hard work, and sometimes nerve-wracking, but we brought some feeling of equilibrium back to our parishioners which was the intention. The group has decided not to have fund raising as its main objective, but to do FUN things for us all.

This Advent we enjoyed 2 lovely services, the Advent Carol Service and the Lessons and Carols for Christmas. These both took place as part of the main service, and one was followed by a lunch. We would love feed-back on the time we chose.

Thank you to Ariane and the choirs, for their hard work preparing for 2 services so close together.

Our last 4 months have been a bit hectic and different, trying to keep pace with changes to our interim priest in charge status, and the individual priests who supported us during September when we thought it would be only for a month. We feel very blessed that we were given Bishop Peter, and we are looking forward to moving ahead with Ven. Rob Davis. We have been most fortunate in the calibre of leadership that we have been offered.

Although from a worship point of view, Sunday is our day, we are open to renters every day. We have 2 churches Mar Thoma and St Mesrob Armenian Church who have their own services, the latter having been with us for well over 40 years.

We have 2 keep fit programmes in the morning, so that only Tuesday morning is free, and in the evening you will find both Kung Fu, and a mediaeval martial arts group, Guides, Pathfinders, Narcotics Anonymous, Square dancing, and a garment guild. We believe that we are helping each other as our rent is not high, but affordable, and they help us financially because they are a reliable source of income. We are also very fortunate that they take care of our building, and are very respectful of it and us. What more could we ask? Many thanks to Penny Miller for taking care of our renters and for bringing in this past year the Kiwanis Music Festival and 2 grand pianos, which was an interesting experience, hopefully to be repeated.

We would also like to offer our appreciation for 2 willing helpers, Gillian Morris, and Karen Barber, who spend time in the office, (Monday Wednesday and Friday am) so that we have an open door, more or less. They are always willing to do extra tasks. Thank you also to Lynn Mani who runs the bulletin.

Joy our 'bookkeeper' and Georgia our treasurer keep us on track. Thanks to them for working out all the details. As we prepare the budget, it is wonderful to know that they know what they are about, and bring the budget to us. Georgia is always able to clarify things and answer our queries.

This September a new program aimed at seniors began every Thursday morning, and is proving to be very popular. Thank you to Laurie Slaughter and members of her team who brought this to fruition.

We know there are many others who should be thanked, the altar guild, church school helpers, coffee roster people, and Penny for her flower arrangements all year long. We know that we have not thanked everyone. We also know you do it to make St Mark's a better place, but it is nice to feel appreciated nevertheless.

So thank you to each of you who in your own way has made a difference to St Mark's, to our parishioners who have shown God's love and caring in this our beloved church and beyond.

Respectfully submitted by your wardens

Pauline Adams and Cynthia Greer.

Implications of Rev Jessica's Illness

We were at the Perley on Friday morning waiting for Rev Jessica to arrive. A short phone call told us that she had suffered a heart attack. We later were told she would need complete rest for a month to recover. This later turned into "the end of December" and then Bishop Peter was with us for four months, until the end of January. He had to leave then as he had a prior commitment elsewhere. We spoke with Jessica a few times, had coffee with her once; but then it was thought if she was in contact with us that she might start worrying about things.

We were blessed to have Bishop Peter with us. His wealth of knowledge of the Bible, his wisdom and experience, his sermons, and his calm, gentle demeanour were very well suited to keeping our parish stable and content. He was sent as a "two per diems" per week priest to us: Sunday and one other day to visit the sick, do the necessary practical work and keep us going. We were lucky that Peter was not too skilled at keeping track of his time, as he spent much more time with us than was agreed upon!

In December we learned that Rev. Jessica's status had changed, as she went on to long term disability, with no specific time period stated. We also heard that the Venerable Rob Davis, newly retired from Pembroke, was to become our new, half-time interim Priest-in-Charge, as of February 1. We welcomed Rev Rob and his wife, Rev Cathy into our midst last Sunday, February 3. We have been assured that Rev Rob has the authority and the wish to move us forward and to make decisions for the parish.

With all these changes, there are also financial implications. While Jessica was on sick leave, and then short term disability, we paid her housing allowance and a full-time share of ECOPS (Equalized Cost of Priestly Services). Nothing had changed at that point, except that we paid Rev Joan Riding for her services at the Perley. The Diocese paid the Ven Paul Blunt and Bishop Peter.

Once Rev Jessica's status changed to long-term disability, our financial picture changed. We are now paying half-time share of the ECOPS formula, and no housing allowance. We will be keeping the savings for when we resume life with a full time priest.

We do not know how long Rev Rob will be with us, but we know he and Cathy are very pleased to be here: they have some history with St. Marks, having been married here and their firstborn was christened here. We are happy to have them with us – for however long – and to move forward under Rob's leadership.

We have been missing Deputy Wardens for some time. With a vote at Vestry, Cynthia will stay on as People's Warden for an extra year, in order to keep the pattern. Pauline will serve her second year as full Rector's Warden, and Bruce will end his term as outgoing Rector's Warden. Two new undesignated Deputy Wardens will be introduced at Vestry. ("deputy" means in training.)

We hope that these decisions meet with your approval, and that we have your support and trust. We are available to help, if needed, any time.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline Adams, Rector's Warden
Cynthia Greer, People's Warden

Synod Report

We -Cynthia Greer, Jenny Morphew, and Georgia Roberts - thank you, for the opportunity to attend Synod as your members from St Mark's. Here is a description of what were some of the highlights for us.

Opening Eucharist and Bishop's Charge

The 137th Synod of the Diocese of Ottawa, which took place November 1 to 3, 2018, had the theme "Anglican Ministry in a Complex World". It began with a Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral, in which Bishop Chapman gave his charge. Also at this service, Ven. Doug Richards (Stormont) and Ven. Kathryn Otley, (Carleton) were collated Archdeacons, Rev Canon Susan Clifford was installed as the Canon of St Mary Magdalene, and Robin MacKay and Sue Garvey were appointed Lay Canons.

For his Charge to Synod, Bishop Chapman reflected on John's gospel, saying that, due to its metaphorical nature, it allows us to think of Church and our participation in its mission in new ways. Three years ago, our diocese developed a roadmap called Embracing God's Future where we established priorities that still hold today. And much has been achieved as we continue to walk in prayer and discernment together. Much progress has been made on the first priority relating to

buildings and the shape of parish ministry, where real estate has been sold and many area parishes have come into being. We have embraced ministries that were already in play and have also started new ones, many of which Bishop Chapman pointed out and some of which will be mentioned below. He asked us to thank God that we have been called to do so much.

Keynote Speaker

The Rev Dr Richard LeSueur was the Keynote speaker on both Friday and Saturday morning. He was until recently the Dean of St George's College in Jerusalem, and returned to Canada this year. He is a priest of this diocese, and lives in Alberta.

His first address highlighted the partnership between our diocese and the diocese of Jerusalem. In that address, we learned:

- How a diocese of only about seven thousand can support clinics, hospitals, schools through outreach supported by so many countries;
- The tax demands and other consequences of President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel;
- It is going to be a long walk for peace. We are asked to pray for justice and peace for all people in the Holy land.

Doing Ministry was the theme of his address on Saturday. As a result of some of the work we did at our Great Chapter meetings concerning new and on-going ideas, we were congratulated on being a healthy diocese, with "Embracing God's Future" as our mission.

Rev Lesueur touched upon many ideas such as Messy Church, Outpost Ministries, worship at different times and in different places.

Entry points into becoming a Christian used to be 1. Believe 2. Behave 3. Belong. Perhaps we should reverse 1. and 3. In a post Christian world how do we connect with modern society?

Rev. LeSueur talked about pilgrimage. The churches are empty and the pilgrim routes overflowing. What are people seeking? Is it just physical challenge or something more? He reminded us of the Glory of God. How one should journey through the desert wilderness, not to be afraid, and to wait upon the Lord.

Both talks by Dr. LeSueur are available on the Synod web page.

Finances

Little time was spent on discussing finances at this Synod since we are only partway through a three-year budget cycle. Budgets will be more on the agenda next year.

Outreach Ministries reported on at Synod

Throughout Synod we learned about the amazing outreach work that is being carried out by parishes, the Diocese and the national church. Many excellent presentations and videos showed how churches were responding to God's call to serve all people, especially those in need. A sampling of what we learned is briefly outlined below.

a. PWRDF

A video on the work of the PWRDF told us how funds can get to disasters almost immediately through the agencies already in the area through which the PWRDF works.

b. Refugee Ministry

Don Smith, Joyce Couvrette and others have worked many long tiring hours submitting and helping with refugee applications. This past year the Diocese of Ottawa has submitted more applications than any other Canadian Anglican diocese.

c. Community Ministries

Our community ministries are The Well, St Luke's table, Cornerstone Housing for Women, Centre 454, and the OPC (Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre). All carry out important work in our Diocese. Some recent changes that we learned about are the following:

- OPC is working to ensure people with no funds can receive services from the Centre. As well as in downtown Ottawa, OPC is now offering service in Manotick and Carleton Place.
- Unfortunately, there has been a drop in funding for Centre 454, so they have been forced to close on weekends, leaving homeless people with few places to go for help, food and comfort on those days. From December to March the Centre has found a means to continue an 'out of the cold' program.
- Cornerstone has just opened a new facility on Princeton Avenue that will become home for 42 women. These bachelor apartments are the first step towards the Diocese' goal of creating 125 units of affordable housing by 2021.
- A program that was highlighted at Synod both last year and this, is a drop-in centre at Trinity Cornwall for homeless people. The work to ensure it happens has been through the Reverend Deacon Peter Cazaly. He is working to have this be part of our community ministries. It now serves 500 people during the year, who may come 3 days a week for breakfast and stay for fellowship.

d. Multi-Faith Housing Initiative

In relation to homelessness, we heard from the Multi-Faith Housing Initiative (MHI). There are 76 faith communities represented, from Baha'i, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Christian and Unitarian, working together in the MHI to address the affordable housing crisis. Currently MHI owns 139 units on 4 properties. Their next project, Veterans' House, is on the former Rockcliffe Air Base. There will be 40 units of permanent supportive housing for some of the veterans who make up 8% of homeless people in Ottawa. Next spring when the vinyl St Mark's banner is unfurled at Tulipathon, remember to support the adults and children from our congregation who do the walk, usually in pouring rain, for this new project.

e. The Big Give

There was a presentation from the Big Give, which started for them and for us at St Mark's in 2015. It has grown to 155 participating churches in Canada, each group doing their own brand of 'big giving.'

Changing the bylaw on the number of lay members of Synod per parish

A motion was presented to change Bylaw 5.07 that lays out how a parish determines the number of Lay Members of Synod its Vestry can elect. The current bylaw is confusing and is difficult to implement in many situations, such as in the new area parishes. The proposed revised bylaw would use average Sunday attendance in the prior calendar year to determine the number of lay members. However, the discussion of the motion to change the bylaw identified many problems with the proposed revision including no lay members for parishes with average Sunday attendance less than 25 and no accounting for attendance at weekday services and at other activities that go on in the parishes. Many argued that the important work of small parishes would be minimized by this

revision. It was decided that the bylaw would go back to the drawing board for discussion, until next synod.

Please visit the diocesan website for the full audio recording, or select parts of Synod

(at Ottawa.anglican.ca/synod-2018). We also hope that some of the wonderful videos that we saw will also be made available there.

Submitted by Cynthia Greer, Jenny Morphew and Georgia Roberts

Property report

Much of the work done by property this year has been of the usual annual variety in a home, but more extensive. These, such as new light bulbs, new batteries in the thermostats, unclogging whatever was clogged, climbing to clean the eaves-troughs, a big job given the number of trees over the property, opening and closing outside taps and hoses, and generally using a hammer or screwdriver where needed have been done throughout the year. There has been a small amount of leaking in the basement, but no sump pump problems at all. Paul put a new sink in the basement bathroom, removing an unbelievably heavy rusty old one.

The sink in the old kitchen was removed a few years ago, but was never capped, so when the 3 sump pumps are working hard, the excess water shoots out of the pipe, soaking the old kitchen. This led to a dilemma. Do we actually take all the pipes etc down from 60 years ago, which likely entails new rules, and might cause a lot of breakage, or go with the simple solution. Now, when the pumps are busy, ground water, not the sewer system, will come up the sink in the 'first' basement bathroom and leave a residue in the sink. It also causes gurgling in the sacristy sink. This is not a problem.

Leaking and dripping are an obvious problem to anyone navigating the sacristy. We had problems early this year mainly during melting temperature, but not when it rained. We tried to fix it, but that fix didn't work. We'll try in earnest in the spring of 2019. The leaking began again in December, so there a little army of buckets and bucket emptiers. Thank you all, and especially to Altar Guild members who have to navigate the buckets

During the spring and summer a lot of work was done outside. Three spindly trees were cut down on the north side to open up the sight lines, and so that there would be room for a labyrinth if that goes ahead. Other trees were trimmed back, and the cedars on the eastern side of the parking lot were thoroughly cut back opened up and cleaned out by Russ Wilkins getting rid of 2 massive trailer loads to the dump, thanks to Paul and the Scout trailer, and at least 60 pails at the road.

Margaret Blakeney offered to take over the gardens, and was often found very early in the morning, or braving the midday sun. Help is always needed on the gardens, so speak to Margaret.

While we know we need a better notice board we also know how costly they are, so this project is still on the books, but on the back-burner so to speak. Anyone with more ideas is welcome to speak to Steve or Kate Close. We need a person willing to go out and move the service times etc on the board out front. A screw-driver is the only tool needed, along with a helper to hold up the Perspex covers. It doesn't have to be done by the property person, but somehow ends up that way. Please offer your time.

Early in the year Joy put a new simple thermostat in the office, after they froze for a few days. Thank you. Then in the Fall we had several strange problems with the furnaces. Although we knew they were turning on, we had very chilly people in church. At last we discovered that they turned on went up to temperature, but became too hot because the blowers fans had died. On new furnaces

we didn't expect that. Whether the tornado and the power outages affected them or not, we do not know, but we fixed one blower only to find the other had broken also. They were both under warranty.

At the same time screeches were coming from the hall furnace. Paul filled them with oil and that solved that. Now we know! Next there was no heat coming into the Link. Since there was no way of finding exactly where the connections were, the thermostat was disconnected, and the radiators now turn on with those in the hall.

The main project was repaving the front part of parking lot. We decided to do that because it was in bad shape, and at the same time pave as far as the Link path. We also had the lines repainted, a few new curb stones, and new handicapped signs, still to go up when the ground thaws. We also put up 5 no parking signs, and a pathway of 7 orange cones. They are being respected. The new principal comes out and checks.

The other much-needed project, but less in cost, was the painting of the whole link, entrance and down the stairs, and the outside Link entry door. Most of this was done by an old parishioner Keith Guild at a very good price. The cloakroom was painted by Bill Barber. Thanks to Bill for that and for 'getting the ball rolling.'

We still have a wish list for next year, but one which will come to fruition is the renovation of the kitchen, using money from the Joan Knight bequest, and money from the closing of the Circle/Guild. We have had 2 quotes so far, and are really happy with one of them, both the price and the contractor. We will be getting another in the new year, and then can proceed.

The windows in the 2 offices are also high up the wish list.

Our chairs are getting rather old, and quite a few need welding. If we can find a welder we will do that, otherwise it will mean new chairs.

So this year has not had many costly surprises, and we know where we are headed next year.

As always I thank Paul, for doing most of the property work, which happened to him only because his wife is the peoples' warden. If you are able to help in any way, but don't know quite how, please speak to me or Paul, and if you are willing to learn that would be wonderful. Thanks go to others, especially Steve Close, whose parents obviously well trained him in their United church, and to Trevor Dee who is always ready to discuss problems or simply possible methods of doing things.

Working with people is a great way of getting to know others, and certainly helps us to be a caring community.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Greer,

People's warden in charge of Property, for Paul Greer the guy who does the work.

Visioning 2018

The Five Marks of Mission

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To teach, baptize and nurture new believers

To respond to human need by loving service

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Beginning at the end of January and continuing through to the end of April, St Mark's lived a season of self-examination and visioning to develop a ministry plan for the future. The focus of the season was the 5 Marks of Mission. On January 28, there was a meeting after a joint 9 am service where we were introduced to the marks of mission and reflected together on how they fit in to the life of the our church and where we could do more.

The focus on the Marks of Mission continued through Lent, where each Sunday focused on a different mark of mission, with support from the readings and reflections. The Lenten Study each week focused on the same mark of mission that had been explored on Sunday. Every Sunday, with the exception of February 25 (Vestry Sunday), a guest speaker came to talk about their work with the featured mark of mission. On February 18, Leslie Giddings, the Child, Youth and Adult Learning Facilitator, spoke to us on the first two marks of Mission. On March 4, the Rev Linda Posthuma, chaplain to Cornerstone, came to speak on the third mark of mission. On March 11, Larry Langlois, retired from Centre 454 spoke to us on the fourth mark of Mission and on March 18, Randal Goodfellow, Board Chairman for Faith and the Common Good and Chairman of "Creation Matters", an environmental initiative of the Anglican Church of Canada, spoke to us on the fifth mark of mission.

As well, during Lent, we looked at our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Each week, the congregation was asked to submit their thoughts. After Easter, the congregation was asked to fill in flowers of hope, paper flowers on which were written hopes for St Mark's future and what the priorities at St Mark's should be for the next one to five years.

On Saturday, April 28, the Rev Monique Stone came to lead us into a day of visioning which we called Making our Mark - Digging Deeper into our call to Discipleship.

Monique described the evolution of the Anglican Church of Canada as a double loop – two trajectories of growth and decline happening at the same time, but at different stages. The church peaked, in her opinion, somewhere in the 1960s when parishes were robust and large and held power and influence. Since then, its health has declined and is currently in a state of 'hospice' - which, like a decaying garden, can provide 'compost' for renewal and change as a new church emerges. Aging buildings and changing demographics in our society are contributing to the decline, and to some it can be scary, Monique said, "but it's important to recognize our position." In a 20-minute radius of our church today there might be 50 or 100 different faith traditions, where in the past our church was the only house of worship.

From all the hopes and ideas participants offered for St Mark's, the main headings that emerged were: Outreach, communication and knowing the community; stewardship, sustainability and growth; youth, kids and music; fellowship; lifelong formation and Christian identity; and outdoor space. "We will never be the same as we were before," Monique counselled, "and we must be prepared for rogue directions. But we serve the strength of the spirit, and we need to be constantly open to our own journey. That is our baptismal covenant, and God is behind all of it."

Since that day in April, some initiatives were identified and we have moved forward on them, sometimes at a measured pace. For example, an initiative that answered the priorities of outreach, fellowship, communication and knowing the community is the seniors' outreach program called Coffee, Company and Conversation, which started this fall. (See page 26) Work on this initiative was

already under way when the priorities were identified, and the visioning process reinforced this as a direction in which to proceed. Our fall study, *Invited*, a series of short films and discussion which focused on exploring genuine Christian invitation, answered the priority of sustainability and growth. We are investigating the construction of a Little Library which would answer the priorities of outreach and outdoor space. We are also considering the idea of a labyrinth or other contemplative space for our side yard.

Joy Bowerman,
on behalf of the Visioning Group

Prayer Ministries

St Mark's E-Prayer

E-prayer is prayer sent via e-mail for people who have requested prayers.

St Mark's E-prayer celebrated 11 years of e-mail prayer in 2018. What started in 2007 with a few requests for prayers for parishioners, evolved into 64 E-prayers being sent to 58 members in 2018.

Our prayers were not only for the church family, but for our own families and friends: some were for people we only knew by name; some were with simple information and some with a lot; some with follow-up and some with none.

The majority of our prayers were for the sick. We prayed for 52 parishioners and their families, for health, surgery and recovery, and we gave thanks for four who were 'healed'. We were saddened by the loss of 15 parishioners, family or friends. We gave thanks for their life, and prayed for comfort for their families.

We also gave prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of three babies, seven baptisms and one marriage.

Over the past 11 years the E-prayer circle has worked as a conduit between pray-ers and those being prayed for. It has helped provide an instant prayer link of support and comfort when it was needed. Another aspect of the E-prayer circle is that those we pray for can use it to give updates on their situation and also give their thanks.

My thanks to all who have been part of our E-prayer team these past 11 years, who have added all these people to their own personal prayers. I also thank those who have put their trust in us, by using the E-prayer for their own prayer requests.

When we were praying for the late Sheila Vaudrey, she said of prayer, *"I call it the Power of the Plus ... Positive Attitude + Faith in God = Unbeatable Combination."* She also said ... *"I give full credit to God, with assistance from all of those lovely folks who continue to uphold me in prayer."*

If you want to join the E-prayer list of pray-ers, or have prayers said for you, St Mark's E-prayer can be reached via drblodge@sympatico.ca ... or just let me know.

Please join us.

Margaret Lodge
E-prayer Coordinator

Prayer and Praise Group

The Prayer and Praise Group meets in the Choir Room each Tuesday night from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There are 6 regular members in the group, with an average attendance of 4-5.

The program takes the form of Worship (both spoken and the singing of hymns), personal prayers, prayers for the Church generally and for our own Parish, especially those whose names are on our Parish Prayer Cycle for that week. On the third Tuesday of each month the Tuesday night meeting takes the form of a Healing Service in the Peace Chapel from 7:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

All are welcome. for more information speak with or call Carol Dicks (613) 224-0858

Prayer Cycle Calls

There is a team of 4 members of our Parish who takes turns calling those whose names are on the Prayer Cycle in our bulletin each week. The purpose of the calls is to determine how people are and if they would like prayers for themselves, family members or friends. The requests that we are given are prayed for at the Prayer and Praise Group meeting.

Carol Dicks

Perley–Rideau Ministry

Our Ministry to the residents at the Perley Rideau Veterans Health Centre has been ongoing for over 30 years, beginning when it was located on Aylmer Avenue.

Until this past year we provided a Eucharist every Friday morning, which included picking up the residents and pushing them in wheelchairs to the chapel. Afterwards we return them to their rooms, and lastly we relax over coffee in the cafeteria. Now with mixed feelings but practical necessity, we go every 2 weeks.

Although the service is an Anglican Eucharist, we have people from different churches. They really enjoy the communion service, and having the priest chat with them.

The team consists of the priest, Sheila Pitt and Carol Dicks, who provide the liturgical part, while Helen McGill, Pauline Adams and Paul Greer get their exercise pushing wheelchairs, and Cynthia Greer keeps her eye on everyone, to be sure no-one decides to check out the hallways, and making sure that the partakers can follow the service in the book. Since Rev Jessica has been absent we have been delighted to have Rev. Joan Riding presiding at the Eucharist.

Two weeks ago Marni Crossley, known to many of us through ACW joined the team. We have great difficulty if even one person is missing from the team, so ideally we would love to have 2 more helpers. I really enjoy helping in this way, and maybe you would. Please talk to one of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Greer

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We continue to provide prayer shawls, baptismal shawls and pocket prayer shawls. Each one is knitted or crocheted with love and prayer. New shawls are blessed on the first Sunday of the month, during the 10am service.

The shawls are given to those in need of comfort and solace as well as in joy and celebration and represent the love and prayers of our church community. If you would like a shawl for yourself, family member or friend please speak to me or leave a request at the office.

I would like to thank knitters, past and present and especially Betty, Ada, Diane, Janis and Aileen for their help in making this ministry possible. Thanks also for the shawl donation from a local knitting group.

Respectfully submitted,

Gillian Morris

Music Ministry

There are three choirs at St Mark's: the regular senior choir, the junior choir and the Requiem choir. The Senior Choir sings on Sunday mornings, as well as for any additional services, including those during Lent, Holy Week and Christmas. Choir practice is on Thursday evenings, with a break for the summer months. In summer we have a pick-up choir that meets before the Sunday morning service to practice the service music as well as an anthem that is feasible for the choir members in attendance.

This year the ecumenical service marking the week for Christian unity and reception was celebrated at St Mark's on January 21st. It was initially planned to be at St Elias Lebanese Orthodox Church but had to be changed at the last minute. The service brought together clergy and parishioners from the Greek Koimisis (Dormition of the Virgin Mary) Orthodox Church, and our Catholic neighbours from Madonna della Risurrezione. Our priest, Rev. Jessica Worden, was one of the three celebrants. A number of St Mark's choir members participated, singing both the Anglican hymns and the Italian songs.

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, we sang our first evening Eucharist of the year to mark the beginning of Lent, which culminated in the Holy Week choral services including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and the April 1 Easter morning service including the Hallelujah Chorus in the "come up to the front of the church and sing with us" format.

Our last choir practice before summer was on June 21. The optional "pick-up" choir for our summer services was well-attended this year, so that we were able to sing in 3 or 4 parts on most Sundays.

Choir practices resumed on September 6. We were invited to sing for the joint Carlington Community Chaplaincy Choral Festival at Cityview United Church on November 4, but the concert had to be postponed as two other church choirs had problems with the date. We had learned the Dvorak "Eia Mater" and Fauré "Sanctus" which were to be sung together by all choirs, so hopefully we can find an appropriate time to sing them as anthems.

On Sunday November 11 we commemorated Remembrance Day, with trumpeter Marc Descloux playing the Last Post, Reveille and some of the hymns. This service marked the 100th anniversary of the signing of the armistice, and the Sunday School and Scouts in attendance rang the church bells 100 times.

This year again, our Lessons and Carols services were two weeks apart, on December 2 and 16, in order to accommodate the Sunday School Pageant on December 23. The Carol Services were both in the morning, and integrated the lighting of the respective Advent Candles as well as the celebration of the Eucharist. The Advent Carol Service was followed by a luncheon in the hall. The Nine Lessons and Carols was followed by tea and coffee and light refreshments in Bishop Reed Hall. The junior choir sang with us and also contributed several carols on their own for both services.

At the 9pm Eucharist on Christmas Eve, we sang the traditional Merbecke music for the ordinary of the Mass. This was preceded by the traditional half hour of congregational singing of Christmas hymns, presided by Bruce Lodge. As it was the 200th anniversary of the Silent Night, the carol –

Stille Nacht - was sung in the original German by Jeremy, Madeline, and Penelope Close, along with Kate Close-Greer and Bruce. Bishop Peter included the story of the carol in his sermon at the 4:30 Family service: on Christmas Eve in a small church in rural Austria the organ was discovered to be out of commission because mice had nibbled holes in the bellows (others speak of damage due to flooding). The priest, Joseph Mohr, had previously penned a poem appropriate for the Christmas Eve Mass, and asked his organist, Franz Xaver Gruber if he could quickly compose a suitable melody with guitar accompaniment.

On a social note, we gathered for a choir party, at the home of Margaret and Bruce Lodge on the Feast of the Presentation, February 2.

We have one new senior choir member: Gerry Sheehan came and sang bass for the Nine Lessons and Carols Service and has subsequently joined the choir. Michelle Zacour has taken some time off from the choir in order to spend more time with her very young children. Suja Mani also took some time off because of other singing commitments on Thursday evenings.

St Mark's Requiem choir, which includes former and current senior choir members and others, gathers to sing for funerals, occasional weddings and other events. The choir is sometimes led by our organist parishioner Carol Dicks, as I am often unavailable to play for these services.

Our Junior Choir continues to flourish. They are singing in two and three parts much more frequently. At the beginning of 2018 we had seven members: Jeremy, Madeline and Penelope Close, Patrick Findlay, Anabella Martinez-Ball, Jessica Robinson, and James Martinez-Ball as a probationer. James, who is a keen singer, took a break from the choir during the latter part of the year in order to improve his reading skills. Jessica has had to reconcile sports activities and choir as her ringette team often plays on Sunday mornings, so she has sung with the choir when possible, including on Christmas Eve.

The junior choir sings an anthem as well as the first verse of the communion hymn on their own just about every Sunday. They very competently led the hymns and service music at the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Family service, singing two anthems. This year again, they were joined by former junior choristers Sarah and Alex Dee. Alex played the calypso-style rhythms of the hymn "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" on the derbouka, keeping me on track.

Thank you to Kate Greer-Close for contributing her considerable organizational, pedagogical and musical talents to the choir's functioning. Thanks also to Carolyn Findlay, who helps out every Thursday and Sunday as well. The junior choir welcomes new members; the only requirement is an ability to read English.

The organ is still holding up very well since the major electrical circuit repairs of 2016 and the speaker repairs a few years before that.

Many thanks to Carol Dicks, Don Marjerrison, and David Huddleson, who have all substituted for me at various times this year.

Thank you to all choir members, who faithfully and diligently gather to practice and sing for the services every week. Special thanks to Kate Greer-Close, our choir president; to Joy Bowerman for help with sectionals, for occasional keyboard accompanying and recorder playing; to Jenny Morphew for taking care of our substantial music library, for posting the hymn numbers on the hymnboard, for keeping our choir robes organized; to Karen Barber who represents the choir at Parish Council; to our convenor Cynthia Greer for making all those phone calls and looking after the signing and sending of cards of congratulations or sympathy from the choir when needed; to

Coralie Sheehan for keeping track of our finances; Janis Perkin for restoring books that need it; Brenda Zanin for straightening our choir robes when they don't look right on us, for writing songs for special occasions, and for playing the recorder; to page-turners John Hancock and Brenda Zanin; to Gillian Martin for playing the flute; to Bruce Lodge who also leads sectionals on occasion. Thank you to Margaret Lodge, our past president.

I am very grateful to Rev. Jessica for her appreciation and understanding of choral music and of choristers, and to Bishop Peter, our interim priest in charge since Jessica's heart problems in September, for being so supportive of the choirs' contributions. Thank you to Joy Bowerman who is such a wise, efficient and caring presence in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,

Ariane Dind

Wellness Committee

During 2018 the Wellness Committee continued to focus on our parish family. Each meeting conducted a roll call of parishioners facing challenges. With participation of Rev Jessica and Bishop Peter we named those with illness, joys, sorrow, and change in life circumstances and arranged for cards and/or phone calls or Pastoral visits.

The Committee planned and hosted two luncheons, spring and fall. During planning for the May Eucharist and lunch, we explored expanding our guest list and decided to invite parishioners from Carleton Memorial to join us. (They are neighbours and historical partners as the two founding parishes met in the same location for several years at the end of the '40's and early '50's before we each built our own worship space.) Several CM people joined us. The Junior Choir from St Rita came and raised their voices and our spirits with music.

The fall Eucharist and lunch in November again extended an invitation to Carleton Memorial which was accepted. After their meal our guests were pleased to learn more about our interim Priest, Bishop Peter Coffin as he reflected on his life in ordained ministry.

During this past year we took note of several parishioners who have gone to meet those who have gone before. We also said good-bye to dear friend and faithful participant in the Wellness Committee, Jackie Sorfleet as she relocated to be nearer to family.

As we look to 2019 we are talking about expanding our invitations to the Eucharist and lunch to include the Thursday morning coffee group. This would challenge us to rethink our calling to host these events. As these gatherings were originally conceived the purpose was to provide an opportunity for shut in parishioners to come to worship. Enlarging the invitation list reaches into the community and the ramifications must be explored.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Darling, on behalf of the faithful committee members Jane Delroy, Georgia Roberts, Margaret Lodge, Gillian Morris, Carol Dicks, Cynthia Greer

Screening in Faith

What is screening? Screening involves assessing the risks involved in a particular position or ministry; finding an appropriate match between task and volunteer (or candidate for a job); providing sensitization and training, and sometimes altering the setting and arrangement of ministry

delivery to minimize risks and maximize the ministry's success.

(<http://www.ottawa.anglican.ca/SIF.html>)

The Screening in Faith Committee is comprised of Les Cundell, Georgia Roberts and Michael Perkin. It continues to work on the screening process and procedures at St. Mark's.

Our records show that we currently have 14 parishioners with Police Records Check (PRC) for the year 2018. We will have to carry out 3 Police Records Checks in 2019

The Ministries and positions designated as High-risk are:

-Rector (Diocesan responsibility) -Pastoral Care (Perley Visitors not included) -Church School (Head and Teachers) -Rector's Wardens, Rector's Deputy Warden -Nursery (Head and Helpers) - People's Warden, People's Deputy Warden -Friendly Visitors -Junior Choir (Leader) -Screening in Faith Committee (4) -Parish Administrator (not a volunteer)

Plans for 2019 include: 1) Continuing work on the Screening program – with new Police Records Checks applications/Reference Checks etc. for volunteers in High-risk ministries; 2) Notifying volunteers who need to have their records updated. 3) Updating Job Descriptions files (from 2002) 4) Contacting Heads of Groups for up-to-date lists of group members for inclusion in St. Mark's Volunteer list.

I would like to thank Michael Perkin, Georgia Roberts for their help and guidance.

Respectfully submitted, Les Cundell

Circle Two

Circle Two operated as a fundraising/fellowship group, working together to raise funds for the church. It was a difficult decision but due to changing priorities and much reduced membership, it was felt that the activities carried out by the members could be handled within the parish. In 2018 Circle Two was disbanded. The redirected fundraising activities are as follows:

Christmas puddings - Church Calendars: St Mark's Mother's Union (MU) volunteered to take on the making and selling of Christmas puddings as well as the sale of Church calendars. Many thanks to St. Mark's MU for volunteering to take on these worthy fundraisers.

Stamps: Doreen Matweow collects, processes and sends postage stamps to the Leprosy Mission where they are eventually sold to stamp dealers, with the proceeds going to third world countries to help with the challenges of leprosy. Doreen continues this Outreach program single-handedly. Many thanks and appreciation to Doreen.

Annual Art Show: The main fundraiser of Circle Two is the annual Art Show held in the Spring. Please see the separate Vestry report regarding this fundraiser on page 18.

Baby Items: The donation of clothing and other items for new born babies to Debra Dynes Family House will continue under St. Mark's Outreach Program.

At the last Circle 2 meeting, the members voted unanimously to transfer their total bank balance of \$7,627.60 for the much-needed kitchen renovations.

The past dedication and hard work of the members of Circle Two is very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Doreen Matweow and Suzanne Bisson

Stamps

For the year 2018, I mailed five large shoe boxes of postage stamps to the Leprosy Mission. For 2019, I mailed one box of stamps on January 3.

Doreen Matweow

St Mark's Art Show

Saturday, April 7, 2018 was the date of the 50th Annual St Mark's Art Show and Sale. This very special event had been taking place each year for half a century!

As had been the tradition, the artists who had participated the previous year were the first to be invited to "have a board" in 2018. Many had been part of the show for a great number of years and were delighted to take part once more. Not only were they there to display and sell their art but also to connect with their artist friends and with the volunteers from St Mark's who had made them so welcome over the years. The organizers decided to try something new, too, which was to set up tables in the back half of the church and to search out artisans to display their wares – books, pottery, cards, woven items and more. Several artists booked a table there, as well as displaying their art in Bishop Reed Hall. There was artistic talent in abundance.

The Princeton Project at Cornerstone was chosen in advance to be the destination for all profits from the show. Leslie Worden, who was a member of the Cornerstone Management Board, was invited to speak about Princeton and to officially open the show. At the opening as well, some of the longer-standing artists were pleased to recall their memories of shows over the years.

To put on the show took a wide range of volunteer jobs – booking of artists and artisans, advertising, organizing beverages and treats for the tea room, setting up/ cleaning/ taking down of boards and tables, welcoming and assisting visitors and looking after sales, to name just a few. The efforts of those involved were rewarded by a great turnout to the event. Many thanks for all the hard work!!

There is no Art Show planned for 2019. A break after fifty years seems merited. But look out for what next year might bring.

Georgia Roberts

Member of the Art Show Organizing Committee

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is a world-wide sisterhood within the Anglican Church, with 4 million members in 83 countries. The aims are:

- ❖ to share Christ's love and teaching by supporting and nurturing marriage and family life,
- ❖ to maintain a world-wide fellowship of Christians, united in prayer worship and service,
- ❖ to seek justice for all,
- ❖ to support individuals and families in troubled circumstances.

St Mark's branch was re-established in 1983. We wear many hats, and provide many services, generally connected to our Aims and mandate. One of those hats is the church Membership Committee, and through that the Vitality Group. We help with the parish Seniors' lunches. We also support the Church School and Nursery whenever possible. As a group, or individually, we are very involved in the life of St Mark's.

2018: Our year started with an Epiphany Dinner in January. Our monthly meetings are open to the parish, and are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the conference room, starting at 1:00pm. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend. We presently have 10 active members and 3 supporting members, plus Bruce, Paul and Steve, who are acting auxiliary members and chief BBQ-ers.

Outreach: Mothers' Union is not a fundraising organization, but everything that we are involved in on a social or community level, requires funds or donations in kind. We have been very fortunate at St Mark's to have the support of a very giving parish. Without this help our programs would not be as successful as they are. Some of our outreach is within the parish, with annual and even weekly events, and some reaches around the world.

❖ Bales for the North: Bales for the North is an annual project of Anglican women for over a hundred years. Parishioners provide items for the bales. MU - Jenny Morphew and Gillian Morris - helps sort and Jenny helps pack them. As part of the disbandment of the former Circle 2, the group made its final donation to the shipping of the bales in 2018.

❖ Advent Giving Tree: Each year this outreach reaches greater success than the year before. We collected hats, mitts, scarves, socks, and underwear, toiletries, special seasonal foods, and small gifts. These were shared out among Hope Outreach, the Mission, Centre 454, Cornerstone, Operation Come Home and St Luke's Table. This year we added Nelson House.

❖ Bazaar: We ran the candle table, making \$27 towards MU Mothering Sunday outreach of giving flowers to parish ladies, unfortunately not enough for 2019. We also ran the Calendar and Christmas pudding tables. As in previous years, we managed the boutique, and children's clothing with help from our church youth, plus the Christmas table and rummage table.

❖ 'Buck a book' table: this weekly table raised \$700, including \$150 to Akany Famonjena orphanage and a day teaching centre for teens in Madagascar; \$150 to PWRDF – including the Indonesian earthquake disaster; \$150 to the Canadian MU travel fund; \$100 to the branch travel fund, and \$150 to our special outreach, the Northern Clergy Families Fund. This project has raised \$15,200 since 2000, and all for outreach. Jenny Morphew takes care of the table every Sunday. Many thanks Jenny.

❖ Card Party: Organized by Carol Russell and Pat Sinclair, based on the card parties from the past, 104 people came to play bridge and eat fancy sandwiches. It was a lot of work, especially for MU members preparing the sandwiches, but fun was had by all.

❖ Christmas Puddings & Church Calendars: MU took on the Christmas puddings project and selling parish calendars for 2018. We initially made 2 batches of puddings (30 large per batch) and had to make a 3rd. Smaller puddings were popular. We ordered less calendars and sold about 50, donating the balance for pastoral visits.

❖ Diocesan Calendars 2018: MU took over the Anglican church calendar project from the Diocesan ACW in 2015. This was our fourth year and no longer a joint venture with the Lutheran Church. There was the normal work of phoning and emailing parishes, but as with the previous year with the many changes of church amalgamations and closures, it was harder keeping a tally of who's who and where. We received 71 parish orders, of just under 2400 calendars. It has been a wonderful experience for outreach getting to know all the churches and deaneries in the Diocese, and who's who in each church, and they getting to know St Mark's MU too.

- ❖ Mothering Sunday: the 4th Sunday of Lent, and as we have for many years MU served Simnel cake and coffee and gave carnations to the ladies of the church.
- ❖ Picnic June 24 & BBQ September 23: Each year a new charity is chosen for each event. Some charities are local, others far reaching. This year the funds were combined to donate \$582 to May Court in memory of Norma Mellon, our former parishioner and church secretary, who died in July. Over \$8250 has been raised through these fun events for outreach.

I would like to take this opportunity, which I know I repeat every year, to thank you our parishioners who support all our endeavours. It is your generosity, your concern and your support that allow us to be God's hands in the neighbourhood, our city, and around the world.

May God bless you for your love and caring.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Greer, Mothers' Union Branch Leader

Membership

A good question in planning for any organization's future, would be to ask the question of what brought you here, with a follow up question of what keeps you here. For St Mark's the second question already has been answered by many – they felt at home and welcomed into the family.

The parish demographics are always changing. Our parish was founded by returning vets in the late 40s but very few of the early families still belong to the parish. Also, less members live within the geographical parish. About 53% live within, or close to, the parish. This leaves 47% who come a distance, by choice rather than just proximity. As happens in any group situation, parish membership fluctuates. Presently we have 190 member units, ranging from singles to couples to families with children. We had 10 new-comers in 2018, we lost 8 parishioners through death.

St Mark's Membership Committee is made up of Mothers' Union members (MU), since Cynthia Greer, the MU leader, took over the vacant position of Membership in 2007/8, and MU agreed to be the working committee. Cynthia moved to the Peoples Warden's position, and I became Chair of Membership at Vestry 2016.

To reassure you, Membership is not just a women's group, it is open to anyone who would like to serve, however parish life is more or less covered as MU members wear many hats: Altar Guild, choir, communications, prayer, pastoral care to name a few, and in 2018 six members were on Parish Council, including two in Corporation positions, which envelopes all parish activities. Your interests are well represented!

The aim of the Membership committee is to work with and for the people of the parish, and to encourage participation in parish life. Technically, Membership covers all aspects of parish life. It has a specific position on Parish Council, representing parish members. However, for example, it does not represent groups like the choir or altar guild as such, but is there to support and work with the members and their activities, in more of an unstructured, unspecific way. It works with the church office, in relation to the official church membership list, and was instrumental in what we now have for all participating members, the smaller Church Directory. In the past few years it has produced information leaflets for the pews, including the main 'welcome' one for visitors and 'get involved' with more specific information and contact names.

The role of the Membership committee has been spread very widely the past few years, functioning more out of specific needs rather than a set structure. One need was the formation of a sub-group

under Membership - the Parish Vitality Working Group. This was a new initiative in 2014 and became very active in 2015, and more so in 2016 - 2018 when it took on a very successful FUN(d)raising role. (see Parish Vitality Working Group Report page 22)

Inter-generational Church: We know we are an aging and aged parish, but youth was a very positive part of our church membership in 2018 as it has been in the past. We are very thankful for our young people, the vibrant church school and junior choir, both the youth and their leaders. Under the leadership of Rev Jessica and Kate Greer-Close, we started specific inter-generational services in 2018 where the children took a more active part in the services. Future new-comers with young families will see a younger and active community for their children, one where the children actually take part in the worship. Not only is our church school thriving, but so is our junior choir, and both bring great joy to our 'older' members.

Vision – Making our Mark: In January the parish held its first of two Visioning days. This started the process through Lent to look at where we are and what we want for our future, culminating in the April workshop with Rev Monique Stone.

There was concern of 'burn-out' – that we have far too many small activities, less people able to do them and maybe now is the time to look at the larger vision.

In February, Cynthia Greer (Peoples' Warden) and Margaret Lodge (Membership) met with Suzanne Bisson, a new Vitality member and new parishioner, to chat about parish activities that Membership / Vitality is involved in. It was a very useful 'chat' that stretched to other parish activities and people-in-action and how events could be run in different ways. It also gave insight from a new-comer's perspective. It was an opportunity to compile a list of where we are in February 2018, as discussed during the Vision1 session, and where we would like to go leading up to the Vision2 day in April.

The list was long – 75 'events'. We do a lot! It was compiled of parish-based events and activities (other than worship) that required people-in-action, whether done as part of a group, a stand-alone big event with a leader, something small with individual helpers or just an individual doing what they need to do for their church. Even though there had been concern that we might be trying to do too much and need to refocus ourselves and declutter, it was noted that some things might need to continue if only as a 'social' need and could continue as that. We do not want to lose the 'widows mite' (the mite being time, talent or treasure) along the way.

To date there is only one 'event' that has been dropped, and through the Visioning sessions a few new initiatives have started or are being planned.

Feeding the Hungry: As in past years, one of the unofficial roles of Membership was to feed parishioners. Food is a very important part of our fellowship here. Anything that involves gatherings involves food. Not all food gatherings are Membership/MU events, but the chances are you'll find most of us there along with a very supportive group in the parish.

Some of our parish gatherings, sponsored by various groups in 2018.

- ❖ Coffee Hour: thanks to Helen McGill (8am) and Suzanne Bisson (10am) who coordinate the coffee hour rosters, and also to the many individuals that take part
- ❖ Parish Breakfasts: held 4 times a year, they are organized by Brian Harrison and his team.
- ❖ Prayer for Christian Unity Service and supper: hosted at St Mark's in 2018

- ❖ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: run by Kate and Steve Close, family and friends.
- ❖ Card Party: bridge lunch organized by Carol Russell and Pat Sinclair, catering assistance by MU/Membership, with help from others
- ❖ Art Show: the 50th anniversary show organized by Georgia Roberts and Circle 2
- ❖ St Mark Patronal Lunch in April: part of the Membership /Vitality
- ❖ Parish Dinner and Valleysmen concert in October, part of the Membership/Vitality
- ❖ Big Give and Doors Open Ottawa: a Membership/Vitality initiative led by Kate Greer-Close
- ❖ Seniors' Lunches in June and November: organized by the Health/Wellness group
- ❖ Church Picnic in June and BBQ in September: both sponsored by MU/Membership
- ❖ Coffee, Company & Conversation: a new seniors' outreach initiative, organized by Laurie Slaughter, Georgia Roberts, Suzanne Bisson and Penny Miller and friends
- ❖ Fall Bazaar: organized by Joy Bowerman and her many workers.
- ❖ Advent Carol service on December 2: lunch was organized by Cynthia Greer, Georgia Roberts and Penny Miller, all MU/Membership members.

As a parish, St Mark's has a group of very active and hard-working core members who make sure things keep going and get done, but helpers for all parish events are down each year. We are always looking for new 'hands' to share the load. The more helpers we have the less we all have to do.

Thank you to those who have contributed in some way to the well-being of St. Mark's. One of the easiest ways of helping out is to join a group or volunteer directly for coffee, church school, altar guild, or sides-people or help set-up or clean-up from an activity, supper, bazaar, or rummage sale. The demands are not onerous, but you get to know people better, and it's a good way to get involved. Read the leaflet in the pews 'get involved'. Maybe you will find something to interest you.

This is what makes our church a very welcoming place.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret Lodge
Membership Committee Chair 2018

Vitality Working Group

The Vitality Working Group was formed at the beginning of 2015. Its purpose "to enhance parish life, particularly through activities and events that increase the sense of being part of the St Mark's Community". The group reports to Parish Council through Membership (Margaret Lodge).

Members of the group in 2018 were Cynthia Greer (Chair), Kate Greer-Close, Margaret Lodge Maria Padin, Penny Miller and Suzanne Bisson.

In the first year, our projects were mainly for the parish with a possible invite to family and friends. In effect relatively low key, mostly in-reach but also with some out-reach, and all FUN. In 2016, the group was asked to take on an extra initiative, to help raise funds specifically for the church, while still maintaining our original mandate. We undertook this challenge with some trepidation as the goal was \$5000. We raised over \$8000 that year!

In 2017 we again raised more than the \$5000 challenge. At the end of 2017, we felt the time had come to withdraw from fundraising, and focus on our original mandate, but were asked to continue to provide a budget line. For 2018, a \$2000 budget was agreed to, and the challenge was accepted, but our projects were reduced.

As in previous years, we had a mixture of meals and entertainment in 2018, but also times that were just fun with no real dollar gain in sight. Some events were a lot of hard work! We had amazing support from you, our church family, our own families and friends, and also the greater community through the non-parish card party, Big Give, Doors Open and concerts. Thanks to your generous support we exceeded our goal again, and raised \$3319 for St Mark's and outreach.

The FUND-raising aspect of our FUN-raising has been an on-going work-in-progress and required early planning and a lot of hard work. In 2018 we informed Parish Council that this would be our last year as FUNdraisers, but Vitality would continue to work with FUNraising for the parish in 2019.

Projects for 2018 were:

- ❖ Card Party on March 7: Although not organized through Vitality, this event was part of our overall fund-raising initiative. The bridge lunch was organized by Carol Russell and Pat Sinclair, with catering assistance by Mothers' Union/Membership. Over 100 attended from all over Ottawa for an afternoon of bridge. It raised over \$1111.
- ❖ St Mark Patronal lunch on April 22: Celebrating our patronal saint has become part of the Membership/Vitality group's annual program. A fun happening just for us. Free-will donations covered the costs, and we were able to make a \$500 donation towards the parish challenge to raise funds to furnish a room in Cornerstone's new housing in Westboro.
- ❖ Big Give on June 2: This Membership/Vitality initiative was led by Kate Greer-Close with lots of give-aways, including food, books and plants. Thanks to about 20 parishioners who helped or provided giveaway items. The project involves many churches and groups who provide items at no cost. It was a great opportunity to get parishioners together and serve food and beverages to those passing by on Fisher. An opportunity both to serve our neighbours and to enjoy the fellowship of others in the parish. In 2017 we extended the event to include Doors Open Ottawa. About 20 people were involved in planning and working the two events this weekend.
- ❖ Doors Open Ottawa on June 2-3: This was the 2nd year for St Mark's and was again coordinated by Kate Greer-Close. We literally opened our doors to the community. St Mark's building fits in perfectly with what Doors Open looks for – environment, originality, nature etc. St Mark's has the solar cross, is made of wood, and in 1954 was the first church to be designed by the late James Strutt, who introduced a new natural approach to religious architecture to Ottawa. We had 30 people visiting, and the volunteers enjoyed themselves too, sharing their spiritual home.
- ❖ Parish Dinner and The Valleymen concert on October 20: The male voice choir entertained 76 parishioners and family, with an afternoon concert followed by pork dinner. We raised \$767.
- ❖ Stairwell Carollers on December 7: This was our second concert by the Stairwell Carollers (December 2016). Over 80 attended, including children. The concert was also a sales outlet for our mini-bazaar, along with a silent auction. The profit was \$851.
- ❖ Christmas Cards: All parishioners received Christmas cards again in 2018. This was an initiative started by Vitality five years ago.

A big THANK YOU to past and present members of the Vitality group, and all who helped us with the various events. We're looking for volunteers for 2019.

A big THANK YOU to everyone. We are grateful to all parishioners who participated in our church events and helped to make St Mark's a vibrant, vital community. We look forward to sharing this vitality with you on a smaller scale in 2019.

Margaret Lodge (Membership)
on behalf of
St Mark's Vitality Working Group 2018
Cynthia, Kate, Margaret, Maria, Penny and Suzanne

Altar Guild

The Altar guild continues its work of preparing for services and then cleaning up. It is behind the scenes work but we do find it fulfilling. We currently have three teams who are on duty for two weeks before switching. This year we have two new members who are "learning the ropes" we are very pleased to have them and would welcome anyone else who might be interested in joining us.

I would like to thank all the members of the guild for their dedication and hard work.

Penny Miller

Flowers

Flowers can brighten the church, bring back memories and create a welcome. If you would like to dedicate flowers please complete a form, which can be found in the link, to start the process. The form can be placed on the collection plate or taken directly to the office with your donation. The office needs to know when and why you would like flowers and the dedication that you would like in the bulletin. Thanks to a generous donation we have been able to have flowers at times when there is not a direct dedication, "just because", thank you very much.

Penny Miller

Nursery and Sunday School

Kate Greer-Close has been the main teacher supported by many helpers. We were very lucky to have several returning helpers, including our regular helpers: Carolyn Findlay, James Kelly and Maria Padin, and Isabelle Boutros, when she is available. Paul Greer and Stephen Close help with setup, cleanup and step in whenever help is needed. Cynthia Greer helps with the pageant and replaces Kate on occasion. I am very thankful for all of our helpers as we could not offer our program without you.

We continue to refer to several on-line sites for our lesson planning, including a Virtual Church program originally designed for the diocese of Keewatin <http://churchschool.info/>, the Episcopal Church <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/> and Sermons4kids <http://www.sermons4kids.com/>. In general, we follow the lectionary and church calendar and teach on the lessons read in church that week.

After speaking with Rev. Monique Stone at our spring visioning session, we decided to introduce more regular inter-generational services. The aim is two-fold, to include the children in the full service and to allow Sunday school teachers and helpers to benefit from occasional services. We originally planned for about once every 6 weeks but Advent was a special case with only one regular Sunday school (Advent 1 – Advent Carol Service, Advent 3 – 9 Lessons and Carols, Advent 4 –

Sunday School pageant). For these “in-church” multigenerational Sundays, I ask children to be readers, crucifers/servers, and help with sidesduties and collection of the offering.

On regular Sundays, we begin in the church, for the opening hymn and prayers, and Junior choir anthem, followed by the children’s story (Janis Perkin). Janis’ story is always a great lead into our lesson! Thank you, Janis.

Then we exit to the Hall where the nursery and school-aged children remain together for a prayer and song. The youngest children can go into the nursery (and be supervised) at any time but most of the children stay in our circle to listen to the story and then do an activity. Activities commonly include crafts, discussion, dramatic representations, songs and prayers.

We have introduced some changes to our program as we add younger children (babies) and as the oldest children benefit from greater discussion. We have organised some weeks to begin together with prayer, song and story, but separate into nursery play time and older children lessons (no craft that week). I still like to begin together as I see how the diverse ages benefit from each other.

Sunday school finishes in time (we try!) for the children to join the congregation for Communion. The celebrant welcomes the children, and the children enter singing (e.g. Halle Halle, Give me oil in my lamp, Prepare the Way of the Lord). The children approach the altar and pray the Lord’s Prayer from there, with the whole congregation. They then rejoin their families for communion. The children in the Junior choir go up to choir at this time and remain in the church until the dismissal.

As it is very difficult to listen to the service (over the speakers) while teaching in the Hall, we rely on the sidespeople to let us know when it is time for us to prepare to rejoin the service - thank you!

Kate regularly plans and leads Sunday school with that week’s helper as hands-on support. Cynthia fills in when Kate is away. Sunday school is planned for each Sunday (10AM service) and must be flexible as we can have from 2-26 children. On average there are 12 children, ranging in ages from 2 to 15. We have a very regular core group of 12 children. Sunday school roughly follows the school schedule (e.g. no organised classes during school breaks).

In terms of our outreach, we continued our Sunday school card ministry - colouring and sending cards to our seniors and shut-ins at Valentine’s, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We decorated cookies (baked by parishioners) and took them to Cornerstone as our part of St Mark’s Lenten outreach. The children had Lenten collection boxes that they put money in when they were helpers at home. We sent that \$82 to Cornerstone also.

The children were again well represented at the Tulipathon in May, where we walked to raise money for the MultiFaith Housing Initiative.

We sold Advent candles and cards this year. The cards were made and donated to the Sunday school by Janis Perkin (huge thanks!) The children thoughtfully considered how to best direct these funds. We have sent \$100 to a community well, \$30 to PWRDF for a goat, and \$36 to school supplies/funding.

Sunday school children and their families also participated throughout Advent by reading for the lighting of the Advent wreath (a different family/group for each Sunday and Christmas Eve).

On the one Sunday in Advent that we had Sunday school, we decorated cookies (thanks to our generous bakers). We donated these cookies (about 6 dozen) to St Luke’s Table.

Our Christmas preparations culminated with our pageant on Advent 4, December 23, (10AM) with 14 children and youth participating. The pageant was again developed in such a way as to allow older

children and youth to read, and younger children to listen and participate in costume. We used the Advent/Christmas readings from Isaiah and Luke and songs that the children know, especially Hymn 368, He Came Down (we added verses for Hope and Light.)

The Junior choir led the early (4:30pm) service on Christmas Eve with both regular and guest choristers.

Again, this year, we participated in the Crèche Sunday on Epiphany. This year, we dressed up as magi and wandered with our stars to find the crèche.

Although we do not have a youth group, our Sunday school does include youth, and we seek out the older youth to help at church events (e.g. pancake supper, bazaar and rummage sale) and at Sunday school.

I am very thankful for the opportunity to work with this wonderful group of children and youth, who are growing together in their life in Christ, so lovingly supported by our whole St Mark's family.

respectfully submitted by Kate Greer-Close

Coffee, Company and Conversation

On September 27, 2018, St. Mark's new community outreach mission for seniors began. For thirteen weeks on Thursday mornings until December 13, regular morning coffee drop-in gatherings took place hosting local or community seniors, including our own St. Mark's seniors who enthusiastically have supported this program. This initiative developed from extensive community consultation and research, including much discussion at Parish Council. The "pilot" fall session was a great success with numbers ranging from 22 to 42 at the morning drop-ins. A number of local seniors who were not members of St. Mark's attended having heard of the program through word of mouth or who read the posters that the committee placed throughout the community. Coffee, tea, homemade muffins and scones (made by our own church members who generously volunteered to bake) were enjoyed, while each gathering featured a guest who entertained with music, crafts demonstrations or presentations. Well known and talented musicians and singers entertained. Speakers came from the Council on Aging to present on topics of interest and from Julian of Norwich Anglican church, volunteers came to lead crafts workshops. We are grateful to these groups for their support of and "partnership" in our community outreach program. Much positive feedback resulted in a commitment to continue in 2019.

Our first winter season morning on January 31, featured the musical group "Plaid" which includes Leslie Worden, someone well known to many St. Mark's members. Since then, we have continued to meet weekly on Thursdays from 10:00 to 12:00, with the proviso that if school buses are cancelled, then Coffee, Company and Conversation will be cancelled as well. These fun and informative mornings will be held until June and then resume in September. If anyone has not been yet to a CCC morning to enjoy the social interaction and special features, please consider coming and supporting our newest outreach. It obviously is meeting an identified need for seniors' social opportunities in the community.

Advertising through posters, social media and print including church bulletins, continues to convey the message that **all seniors are welcome**. Help support St. Mark's community program by sharing this information with neighbours and friends.

This program has taught, yet again, that reaching out to give in the community always addresses a need in ways that cannot be imagined.

Submitted by:

The Coffee, Company and Conversation Organizing Committee (Laurie Slaughter, Georgia Roberts, Suzanne Bisson and Penny Miller) who want to acknowledge with much appreciation all the people who so enthusiastically and generously support and volunteer in this mission.

Outreach

In 2018, our focus continued to be the Debra Dynes Family House (DDFH) regarding school supplies, Mother's Day gifts and weekly collection of items for the food banks.

School Supplies: Overall 219 back packs were supplied through the Caring and Sharing Initiative, which provides school supplies to children up to grade 8. Eighty other people who were on waitlists and did not fall into the age range at Caring and Sharing also received school supplies.

Mothers' Day Gifts: Parishioners donated two full bins of small gifts that the Debra Dynes children could "purchase" for their mothers.

Food Donations: Weekly donations of food items were provided to DDFH.

Our parishioners also generously donated to the bales for the North and for safe and affordable housing in Ottawa.

Bales for the North: We sent over 11 bags of requested new item to St Columba's for shipping to the northern communities that our Diocese supplies each hear. Circle Two provided \$500 towards the shipping of the bales.

Tulipathon Walk - (The Multifaith Housing Initiative): Twenty or so of St.Mark's members and their friends, including 8 children from the Sunday School, walked for safe and affordable housing in Ottawa. St Mark's donation to this worthy cause was \$1000.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Bisson,
Outreach Co-ordinator

Lenten Outreach 2019

As part of our Lenten program since 1999, we have provided almsgiving envelopes to support outreach initiatives. This has allowed us to broaden our outreach in a way which our church budget will not allow. We are planning to continue this program for the year 2019. This year at parish council, there were 2 projects brought up for consideration

Offering envelopes are available at the back of the church during Lent. These should be used in addition to your regular offering envelopes or PAR. All money received in these envelopes will be directed to the Cornerstone Princeton project. If you wish your offering to be directed to a different project, please write the name of your choice on the blank line at the bottom of the label on your lenten offering envelopes. If nothing is filled in on this line, it will be assumed that the money should be directed to the project chosen. Don't forget to write your name or envelope number on the envelope to receive tax credit for your donation!

Previous Projects Supported

- 2011 Debra-Dynes Family House, Cornerstone
- 2012 Debra-Dynes Family House, Ancoura
- 2013 Debra-Dynes Family House, St Luke's Table

- 2014 Centre 454, St Jude's Cathedral, Iqaluit
 2015 Diocese of Jerusalem (Princess Basma Centre), St Luke's Table
 2016 Cornerstone, Refugees
 2017 Ottawa Mission Hospice, Ancoura
 2018 Cornerstone Princeton Project

Primate's World Relief & Development Fund

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is the Anglican Church of Canada's agency for sustainable development and relief. They have been working with partners around world for 60 years, supported by Anglican parishes. PWRDF funds a wealth of programs to improve health, food security and livelihoods for vulnerable people.

PWRDF has funded many water projects, both at home here in Northern Ontario and in developing countries. These are projects to make safe, clean water accessible. PWRDF is currently working with the Cuban Council of Churches to install water purification systems at churches to provide villagers with access to safe drinking water.

Centre 454

Centre 454 is one of the community ministries of our Diocese. It is a day program serving people who are precariously housed or homeless in the Ottawa area. Centre 454 offers a safe space for men, women, and children to find community, friendship, peace, and new skills that will help them transform their lives. Some of the supports offered by Centre 454 are:

- social supports such as hospitality, daily activities, group activities, and special events
- practical supports including laundry and shower facilities, telephone and mailbox services, and essential clothing
- counselling support to individuals and groups
- help in navigating the application process for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- spiritual support including weekly prayer services, special services, and annual memorial services

Although Centre 454 provides support to people who are homeless, 60% of those it serves are housed and need support to maintain that housing. Without Centre 454, many would be spending their days in very unsafe conditions or on the street. Many would suffer the damaging health effects that increase demand on hard-pressed emergency services, and many would lose the support they need to gain better control over their lives

Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday fell on February 13 in 2018. There were 43 tickets sold; 37 were redeemed; 63 paid at the door for a total of 100 adults. Advance ticket sales amounted to \$424, door sales amounted to \$656.

There were many families with children - again hard to count but about 30 children, for a total of 130 attendees.

We made a profit of \$930 for St Mark's, with about \$200 in donations again (e.g. paying over ticket price and directed donations). Last year we made \$1090.

We charged \$8 per adult and children 12 and under were free - same as last year.

There was a positive hum of chatter and visiting with large family groups as well as smaller groups and singles joining together at the long tables.

Kathryn Greer-Close

Parish Breakfasts

We had four very enjoyable breakfasts in 2018. The first took place in January, when parishioner Audia Barnett warmed us up with a fascinating presentation on her native Jamaica. In March, John Johnson, a board member and Past-President of the Ottawa Council on Aging talked about issues that are important for seniors in the Ottawa region. In September, some of our parish leaders talked about exciting activities planned for the fall season and beyond. Our November breakfast, which fell on Remembrance Day, focussed on the tremendous contribution of Canadian veterans in service to our country. We showed one moving video of Canadians at war and another that highlighted two well-known war poems. In December, our profit from the year (\$320) was given to the church. Many thanks to those who work on all of the breakfasts—Jane Delroy, Leanne Harrison and Sheila Pitt. Thanks also to Joy Bowerman for technical assistance when video is required and to all those who help to clean up the hall after each breakfast.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Harrison, Breakfast Coordinator

Sunday Coffee Times

After Sunday service, parishioners gather to chat and enjoy coffee, tea and sweets provided by volunteers. In 2018, the 8 am service volunteers were coordinated by Helen McGill. Suzanne Bisson organized the roster for the 10 am Eucharist.

Working together in the kitchen or serving coffee and tea provides a wonderful sense of camaraderie and fellowship. New parish members are always welcome. Contact us if you would like to help-out.

The volunteers have been steadfast in their support of this parish ministry and we are most grateful to them.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen McGill and Suzanne Bisson

Bazaar 2018

Again this year, our bazaar was not on the first Sunday of November due to the timing of Diocesan Synod. This year we moved it earlier, to October 27. Unfortunately, many of our regular non-parish patron missed it and were calling for several weeks afterwards. However, our usual mini-bazaar was held on December 2 and turkey pies had been made in the spring of 2018 so our net revenue was actually \$6,584 – the highest it has been. Next year, the bazaar will return to its regular weekend on November 2, 2019.

We were joined for the tenth year by CanHave, a local charity making a difference in Africa

The success of the bazaar depends on the commitment and participation of the people within the parish, both in helping to prepare for the event and in coming out to support it. The bazaar would simply not be possible without the knitters, sewers, crafters, bakers, preservers, soup makers, pie makers and sorters of second hand treasures. Also required are greeters, servers, pricers, sellers and setters up and takers down. To run a successful bazaar, almost one hundred people are involved - truly a community event and one whose revenue is necessary to help balance the books. A sincere thank you to all of those involved.

The layout of the bazaar was a little different this year. Vintage Linens were no longer sold. Toys moved upstairs and clothing moved downstairs. Since Circle 2 is no longer active, Doreen Matweow ran a table of treasures she had collected. Special thanks to all of the area convenors: Attic Treasures - Janis Perkin, who had a commitment on the day of the bazaar and was ably replaced on the day by Judy Life and Joanne Pagani; Baking- Penny Miller; Books – Bruce Lodge, Café - Georgia Roberts; Doreen's Treasures – Doreen Matweow; Clothing – Cynthia Greer, Crafts – Gillian Morris; Jewellery – Kate Greer-Close & Diane McCaul; Knitting – Pauline Adams; Lion's Needleworks -Joy Bowerman; Preserves – Margaret Pirnat; Rummage – Margaret Blakeney and Toys - Jeremy Close. As well, the Mothers' Union sold puddings and calendars.

Submitted on behalf of the Bazaar staff by Joy Bowerman, Bazaar Convenor 2018

Slim and Trim

Slim and Trim had a very successful year with numbers slightly up. Attendance was especially good this past year. This programme has been reaching out to the community for over forty years. We are still providing a service as about half of our participants are not members of St Mark's.

We donated \$700 to the church and \$25 to the PWRDF.

Thank you Gail for providing carrot cake and coffee on the last day.

Once again we would like to express our thanks to Gail Denton our instructor, and to Rose who keeps the floor clean for us.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Morphew

Dollar for Dollar

What is the Dollar for Dollar program? You may purchase gift cards from us at face value and spend them in all participating grocery stores listed on the card. Independent and Loblaws are the ones closest to us. The balance of the card decreases as you use it. The cards come in a variety of denominations. We usually stock \$250, \$100 & \$50 cards. They're quick and easy to use and very easy to carry.

So how does that generate profit for the church? Although you give us \$100 and we give you \$100 to spend in the grocery store, we actually paid less than \$100 for the certificate. Depending on the amount we order at the time, we get usually get a discount of 4%. In 2017, \$930 was contributed to general revenues through the Dollar for Dollar program. At the end of the year, we had \$5,000 of cards on hand.

The big advantage of this program, in my opinion is that it is "Money for Nothing". You don't have to give a donation; there is no money out of your pocket. The money that you spend on groceries is the same money you would spend on groceries anyway but this way, the church gets a percentage of it! It is an easy and convenient way of paying for groceries. In our house, my husband, daughter or son will pick up things from the grocery store if I give them the card! You can also use the card in Loblaws' garden centre in the spring to pick up your annuals or at Christmas to buy your tree!

Thanks must be extended to the sales team who have so conscientiously carried out their jobs. The coffee-hour team members, as of the end of 2017, were Georgia Roberts, Coralie Sheehan, Penny Miller and Margaret Pirnat. Gillian Morris and Karen Barber also sold gift cards in the office during

the week. I wish to thank this team for their dedication to their task in this fund-raiser for our parish.

Joy Bowerman
Dollar for Dollar Coordinator

Financial Report

Overview of 2018 Finances

The treasurer is just one member of a diverse team that all contribute to the financial management of the parish. Joy Bowerman, our office administrator and bookkeeper, has been a constant mentor as well as provider of top-notch financial material. Les Cundell and his teams of counters made sure that the income was recorded and deposited. Our envelope secretary, Karen Roberts, entered and double-checked the income data and managed PAR. Parish Council reviewed the financial statements each month and Stephen Coaker and Joanne Pagani reviewed the books at the end of the year. Thank you to all of them.

Because we passed a budget with a deficit of \$4,546 at our Vestry in February 2018, we kept a cautious eye on the “bottom line” as the year progressed. For a large part of the year, total income hovered slightly below total expenditures. But, as has been the case for many years in the past, total income pulled ahead of total expenditures in December so that we ended the year in a much better financial position than what had been budgeted, with a surplus of \$13,479. This result was due both to income being higher than expected and expenditures being lower than expected.

While collection income is a large proportion of our total income, income from other sources such as our solar panels, investments and user fees (i.e., rentals) is still an essential component of our financial well-being. Also, events such as the card party, the St Mark’s dinner, the Valley Men concert, parish breakfasts, the pancake supper, the bazaar and Slim and Trim all contributed to our treasury as well as being fun. Thank you to those who organized these events and to those who came out to support and enjoy them.

More Comments about 2018 Finances

The “Budget 2019” table included in the Vestry Report contains 2018 Actual and 2018 Budget figures in the first 2 columns. My comments will mainly refer to numbers that you see there.

Income:

Total collections for 2018 were \$168,816, which was \$816 over the budgeted amount. Total collections consisted mainly of envelope givings (including PAR) which, it should be recalled, were budgeted to be \$9,000 higher in 2018 than in the 2017 budget, based mainly on the 2018 stewardship pledges. Great work!

The fundraising income (\$2,895), which came from several events organized by the Vitality Committee, and the income donated from various organizations (\$9009) together exceeded budget by \$1,684.

The gain from assets of \$26,953 was approximately \$2,300 over budget. User fees were more than budgeted due to some new regular renters being attracted to our building in 2018. The weather, on the other hand, had a negative impact on our solar income.

Directed income received totaled \$12,894 in 2018, while, as is our custom, none was budgeted. More will be said about directed income and its expenditure further in this report.

Income from reserves totalled \$22,909 in 2018, with \$15,000 coming from the capital projects reserve fund (after a transfer of that amount from the Gladys O'Ray CTF) and with \$7,909 coming from our 2017 surplus earnings. This income was to cover most of the cost of paving the parking lot. Only \$1000 had been budgeted to come from capital projects reserves in 2018.

Expenditures:

Expenditures in 2018 in the Salary category were lower than budgeted, mainly due to a reduction in our ECOPS commitment because of Rev Jessica's illness. Fair Share expenditures were exactly as budgeted.

Of the actual worship expenditure of \$3435, only \$288 of the total amount budgeted (\$2150) was required to be spent. The remaining expenditure of \$3147 was covered by 3 sources of directed income: flowers (\$2647), hymn and service books (\$360) and music (\$140).

Expenditures in the Outreach category were totally covered by directed income. The expenditure of \$5543 to Cornerstone (Princeton Project) was covered by the full Lenten Outreach directed income (\$3265) plus other donations directed to Cornerstone Princeton (\$2278), while \$1615 of directed income was sent to the PWR Fund and \$310 went to Debra Dynes Family House.

Actual and budgeted total Programs expenditures were small, as can be seen in the table, with programs either not spending at all, or underspending their budget.

Of the various expenditures related to the church, the biggest was the special project, which consisted of paving the front part of the parking lot and the Link sidewalk. This project was not in our 2018 budget. Its cost (\$25,059) was covered by \$15,000 from the capital projects reserve fund (after a transfer of that amount from the Gladys O'Ray CTF), \$2150 in directed donations and \$7909 from 2017 surplus funds. The intended special project for 2018 – lowering and capping of the chimney – has been moved to the 2019 budget. Apart from these special projects, all other church expenditures were reasonably on budget. It should be noted that the expenditures for painting of the Link, coat room, and basement stairwell were included in the Repair and Upgrade subcategory.

Finance and miscellaneous expenditures were approximately as budgeted.

Directed Income:

When you look at the Actual and Budget figures for 2018, there is the complicating factor of directed donations. We look as if we spent a lot on flowers, for example, when nothing was budgeted, but really the flower expenditures were offset by directed donations for flowers. As another example, expenditure on music (\$301) was above the budgeted amount of \$150, but most of the difference (\$151) was covered by directed donations to music. In 2018, since the amount directed towards flowers was so much higher than the amount spent on flowers, the remaining money was used to offset other expenditures in the worship category.

To illustrate these complicating factors, the table below shows how close we came to actual budget, in the large categories, by subtracting the directed income from actual income.

	Actual - Directed	Budget	Difference	%Difference
INCOME				
Collections	\$168,816	\$168,000	\$816	0%
Fundraising	2,895	2000	895	45%
Gain from Assets	26,953	24,600	2,353	10%
Organizations	9,009	8,220	789	10%
Directed	0	0	0	
Other Income	1,200		1,200	100%
Income from Reserves	22,909	1,000	21,909	2191%
Total Income	\$231,782	\$203,820	\$27,962	14%
EXPENSES				
Salaries	\$119,979	\$124,699	-\$4,720	-4%
Worship	288	2,150	-1,862	-87%
Programs	1,319	2,720	-1,401	-52%
Fair Share	32,509	32,509	0	0%
Outreach	0	0	0	0%
Finance	5,524	5,598	-74	-1%
Church	54,855	36,890	17,965	49%
Miscellaneous	3,828	3,800	28	1%
Total Expenses	\$218,302	\$208,366	\$9,936	5%

2019 Budget Report

The proposed budget for 2019 can be seen in the third column of the same table that contains the Actual and Budgeted quantities for 2018. The budget, while the responsibility of the wardens, is developed from the input from many sources, including reports on income and expenditures from recent years, known quantities for 2019, and amounts requested from various people and organizations who contribute or spend money for the church. Some comments and explanations related to 2019 budget items are provided below.

Income:

Collections income is the main source of income for the parish, and the main component of this is envelope (which includes PAR) giving. Because the budgeted amount for 2018 was close to what was actually attained, and because there has been little change in our parishioners over the past year, it was decided to budget the same amount (\$157,000) for 2019.

Since open collections – both identifiable and unidentifiable – vary so much from year to year, a conservative estimate (compared to both the 2017 and 2018 actual amounts) is being proposed for 2019.

The budgeted amount of income from fundraising has been reduced to \$0 for 2019, as requested by the Vitality Committee. The committee may, however, still carry out some fundraisers for the parish.

The gain from assets overall is budgeted to be higher in 2019 than what was budgeted for 2018. The main contributor to this is the increase by \$3,000 in the budgeted amount for user fees because of new regular renters of our facilities beginning in 2018, while the amount budgeted to come from solar energy is being reduced by \$1,000 to be more in line with what we have received the last couple of years. As well, a small reduction in 2019 CTF dividends is being budgeted since \$15,000 was redeemed from our CTF's in 2018.

\$1000 is being budgeted to come from the capital projects reserve fund in 2019 for lowering and capping the chimney. This is a project held over from both 2017 and 2018. No firm estimates of how much this work would cost have been obtained.

As is always the case, no directed income is included in the budget for 2019.

Expenses:

Our biggest expense item for the 2019 budget, called staff salaries, is \$126,467. This amount is for 2 lay staff salaries (for organist and office administrator), plus equalized cost of priestly services (ECOPS), plus clergy housing allowance less income of \$11,757 from the Rectory Trust Fund (which is taken off at source by the Diocese). The quantities for ECOPS and clergy housing allowance included in this staff salaries amount were calculated by the Diocese assuming that we had a full-time priest. The Diocese will adjust these quantities downwards to account for the fact that we will have a part-time priest until Rev Jessica is able to return to full-time ministry. At the time of writing of this report, this reduction in costs is not known.

Our Parish Fair Share of diocesan expenses is \$33,421 for 2019. Because of our large capital expenditure on a boiler and furnaces in 2015, our assessments for 2017, 2018 and 2019 are lower than they would have been otherwise.

There have been some category additions in the budget for Programs. First of all, budgeted expenditures for the AED have become a category on their own rather than being part of expenditures by the Wellness Committee. Second, the group organizing Coffee, Company and Conversation, the outreach to seniors in the community which began in the fall of 2018, is requesting \$900 to contribute to the expenses for 30 Thursday gatherings during 2019. Third, a small amount of funding is being requested for the library.

Georgia Roberts
Treasurer

2019 Budget

	<u>Actual 2018</u>	<u>Budget 2018</u>	<u>Budget 2019</u>
<u>Income</u>			
GENERAL			
Collections			
Envelope	153,341	157,000	157,000
Identifiable Open	11,155	8,000	8,000
Open	1,994		
Special Collection	2,327	3,000	3,000
Total Collections	168,816	168,000	168,000
Fundraising	2,895	2,000	0
Gain from Assets			
CTF Dividends	1,072	1,200	1,000
Dollar for Dollar	930	1,200	1,200
Investment Income	1,553	1,200	1,200
Solar Income	9,027	11,000	10,000
User fees	14,370	10,000	13,000
Total Gain from Assets	26,953	24,600	26,400
Organizations			
Bazaar	6,584	6,000	6,000
Breakfasts	320	300	300
Pancake Supper	935	800	800
Slim & Trim	700	400	400
We Kicked the Habit	470	720	720
Total Organizations	9,009	8,220	8,220
Other General Income	600		
Weddings	600		
Total GENERAL	208,872	202,820	202,620
DIRECTED			
Cornerstone	2,278		
Debra-Dynes	310		
Flowers	2,647		
Forward Day by Day	79		
Hymn & Service Books	360		
Lenten Outreach			
Cornerstone	1,775		
Not specified	1,490		
Total Lenten Outreach	3,265		
Music	140		
Office	50		
Paving	2,150		
PWR Fund	1,615		
Total DIRECTED	12,894		

Church of St Mark the Evangelist
Annual Reports to Vestry February 24, 2019

	<u>Actual 2018</u>	<u>Budget 2018</u>	<u>Budget 2019</u>
INCOME FROM RESERVES			
Capital Projects	15,000 a	1,000	1,000 d
Previous Year Surplus	7,909		
Total INCOME FROM RESERVES	<u>22,909</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Total Income	<u>244,675</u>	<u>203,820</u>	<u>203,620</u>
<u>Expense</u>			
SALARIES			
Clergy Fill-in	2,048	1,272	1,314 e
Organist Fill-in	425	600	600
Staff	117,506	122,827	126,467 f
Total SALARIES	<u>119,979</u>	<u>124,699</u>	<u>128,381</u>
WORSHIP			
Flowers	1,339		
Hymn & Service Books	328		
Music	301	150	300
Piano/Organ	135	1,000	1,000
Service & Altar Supplies	1,333	1,000	1,000
Total WORSHIP	<u>3,435</u>	<u>2,150</u>	<u>2,300</u>
FAIR SHARE	32,509	32,509	33,421
OUTREACH			
Cornerstone	5,543		
Debra-Dynes	310		
PWR Fund	1,615		
Total OUTREACH	<u>7,468</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
PROGRAMS			
AED			370
Christian Education		250	250
Church School	35	100	100
Coffee, Company & Conversation			900
Conferences & Memberships	469	500	900
Library			150
Membership		150	150
Outreach Coordination	211	300	125
Prayer Shawl		50	50
Publicity		200	200
Synod	273	450	450
Wellness - Seniors' Hospitality	206	350	350
Wellness - AED	125	370	
Total PROGRAMS	<u>1,319</u>	<u>2,720</u>	<u>3,995</u>

	<u>Actual 2018</u>	<u>Budget 2018</u>	<u>Budget 2019</u>
CHURCH			
Cleaning Service	15,453	15,200	15,200
Electricity	4,043	5,500	5,500
Heating	3,920	4,000	4,000
Operating Supplies	960	1,000	1,000
Repair & Upgrade	2,843 ^b	5,000	5,000
Security	224	250	250
Snow Removal	2,291	2,450	2,565
Special Projects	25,059 ^c	1,000	1,000 ^d
Telephone	1,191	1,300	1,300
Waste Collection		90	
Water	1,021	1,100	1,100
Total CHURCH	57,005	36,890	36,915
FINANCE			
Bank Charges	359	350	350
Insurance	5,048	5,048	5,048
Supplies	116	200	600
Total FINANCE	5,524	5,598	5,998
MISCELLANEOUS			
Computer & Internet	958	800	800
Forward Day by Day	226		
Office Supplies	268	500	200
Other Miscellaneous	399		
Photocopier	1,456	1,500	1,500
Postage	512	600	600
Rector's Hospitality		200	200
Wardens' Discretionary	138	200	200
Total MISCELLANEOUS	3,957	3,800	3,500
Total Expense	231,196	208,366	214,510
Net Income	13,479	-4,546	-10,890

Footnotes:

a: Funds were transferred from Gladys O'Ray CTF to Capital Projects Reserve

b: Costs for painting the Link in 2018 were included in Repair and Upgrade

c: In 2018, there was only one special project - the paving of the front part of the parking lot and the Link sidewalk.

d: \$1000 is guess at price for lowering and capping chimney. For this project, money is budgeted to come from the capital reserve fund. This special project for 2019 is a holdover from 2017 and 2018.

e: This is the per diem rate for 6 days taken from the 2019 Stipendary Scales and Allowances. It does not include a travel reimbursement.

f: This amount is 2 lay staff salaries, plus ECOPS and clergy housing allowance for a full-time priest, less earnings from Rectory CTF. There is an increase of 2.99% over 2018 for lay staff, in line with clergy salary increases.

Balance Sheet

9:54 AM
2019-02-13
Accrual BasisSt Mark's Church
Balance Sheet
As of 31 December 2018

	31 Dec 18
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
TD BANK	79,366.18
Total Chequing/Savings	79,366.18
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	5,721.00
Total Accounts Receivable	5,721.00
Other Current Assets	
Dollar for Dollar	13,334.01
HST Receivable	1,266.87
PST Receivable	3,149.79
Total Other Current Assets	17,750.67
Total Current Assets	102,837.85
Other Assets	
Investments	
Gladys O'Ray CTF 2654	14,000.00
Judy Corbishley CTF	6,000.00
Memorials CTF 2534	5,804.37
Rector's Trust CTF 4053	327,787.49
Total Investments	353,591.86
Total Other Assets	353,591.86
TOTAL ASSETS	456,429.71
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
RESERVE ACCOUNT	
Seniors Outreach	500.00
Flo Clarke Bequest	5,000.00
Funeral Receptions	133.43
Capital Projects	7,874.75
Choir Fund	2,326.06
Choir Gowns	810.07
GIFT Funds	29,629.06
Joan Knight - Kitchen	19,644.00
Key Deposits	412.04
Memorials	9,344.36
Ministry	8,633.35
Pastoral Care Support Fund	875.00
Rector's Discretionary	126.48
Sunday School	356.89
Tree Care	900.00
Total RESERVE ACCOUNT	86,565.48
Total Other Current Liabilities	86,565.48
Total Current Liabilities	86,565.48
Long Term Liabilities	
Gladys O'Ray Bequest	14,000.00
Judy Corbishley Bequest	6,000.00
Rector's Trust	327,787.49
Total Long Term Liabilities	347,787.49
Total Liabilities	434,352.97
Equity	
Retained Earnings	8,598.07
Net Income	13,478.67
Total Equity	22,076.74
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	456,429.71

Reserve Account Activity

	Credit	Debit	Balance
Capital Projects			\$7,874.75
Transfer from CTF Gladys O'Ray	15,000.00		22,874.75
Transfer to General Funds		15,000.00	\$7,874.75
Choir Fund			\$1,963.55
Donations	362.50		\$2,326.05
Flo Clarke Bequest			\$0.00
Bequest	5,000.00		\$5,000.00
Funeral Receptions			\$0.00
Donations from Funerals	162.50		162.50
Expenses		29.07	\$133.43
GIFT Funds			\$29,541.54
GIFT Income	87.52		\$29,629.06
Key Deposits			\$455.69
New keys		43.65	\$412.04
Memorials			\$8,174.36
Memorial Donations	1,170.00		\$9,344.36
Ministry			\$8,613.35
Prayer Shawl Donations	20.00		\$8,633.35
Rector's Discretionary			\$16.77
Donation for Green Banner/Vestments	200.00		216.77
Expenses for Green Banner/Vestments		140.29	76.48
Deposits	50.00		\$126.48
Seniors' Outreach			\$0.00
Donation	500.00		\$500.00
Sunday School			\$143.90
Donations	305.00		448.90
Outreach Expenses		92.01	\$356.89

Statement by Financial Reviewers

January 27, 2019


To: The Parish of Saint Mark the Evangelist
Anglican Church of Canada
1606 Fisher Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 1X6

A review of the financial record of St Mark's was performed for the year ending December 31, 2018. Our review consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to financial information supplied to us by the officer of the parish.

In our opinion, the financial statements fairly present the financial position of St Mark's church at December 31, 2018 and summarize the financial activities in comparison to the budget plan for the year then ended.

Reviewed by:

Stephen Coaker



Joanne Pagani



Nominations/Appointments for Parish Council

Nominations

People's Warden	Cynthia Greer	(1 year)
Deputy Warden (unassigned)	Suzanne Bisson	(1 year)
Deputy Warden (unassigned)	Bill Barber	(1 year)
Synod Member	Gillian Morris	(2 years)
Alternate Synod Member	Julia Fogg	(1 year)
Member-at-Large	Judy Life	(2 years)
Member-at-Large	Janis Perkin	(1 year)
Membership	Margaret Lodge	(2 years)
Outreach	Suzanne Bisson	(2 years)

Balance of Parish Council after Vestry

Interim Rector-in-charge	Ven. Rob Davis	
*Rector's Warden	Pauline Adams	
*Treasurer	Georgia Roberts	
*Choir representative	Karen Barber	(1 year)
Church School	Kate Greer-Close	(1 year)
*Stewardship	Michael Perkin	(1 year)
Synod	Georgia Roberts	(1 year)

*Appointed positions

Retiring from Council

Outgoing deputy Rector's Warden	Bruce Lodge
Outreach	Laurie Slaughter
Synod Member	Jenny Morphey

Respectfully submitted:

Bruce Lodge/Penny Miller

Vestry Minutes, February 25, 2018

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST ANNUAL VESTRY FEBRUARY 25, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Vestry was called to order at 10:57 a.m. The chairperson for the meeting was Rev. Jessica Worden-Bolling.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Jessica Worden-Bolling.

APPOINTMENT OF VESTRY CLERK

Janis Perkin was appointed as vestry clerk. Moved by Coralie Sheehan, seconded by Kate Greer-Close. **CARRIED**

APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY, FEBRUARY 19, 2017

Correction- pg. 41 Carol Dicks gave thanks to Penny Miller

A motion to accept as amended was moved by James Kelly, seconded by Les Cundell. **CARRIED**

RECTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Jessica thanked the parish for the warm welcome that was offered to Vance and the family.

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

A motion of reception of the Wardens' Report was made by Bruce Lodge seconded by Cynthia Greer. **CARRIED**

2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENT & AUDITOR'S REPORT

In Georgia Roberts absence Joy Bowerman walked us through the financial statement using a PowerPoint presentation. It was noted that 80% of the income comes from collections. Our trend is that we usually have more net income than what has been budgeted. One correction was noted: on pg. 32 the music expenditure should be \$150.00 and not \$250.00.

Acceptance was moved by Les Cundell and seconded by Wes Adams. **CARRIED**

PRESENTATION OF 2018 BUDGET

Joy Bowerman filling in for Georgia Roberts presented the budget for 2018. A request was made at the 2017 Vestry for the discretionary salaries to be laid out in the budget. In the 2018 budget \$121,753.00 is budgeted for staff salaries. This covers 2 lay staff salaries, ECOPS and the clergy housing allowance. Of that amount budgeted \$11,286.00 comes from Rectory Trust Fund Dividends. A request for a further breakdown was made and this will be referred to Parish Council.

The proposed budget deficit is \$4,546.00.

Acceptance was moved by Cynthia Greer and seconded by Bruce Lodge. **CARRIED**

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Jessica thanked the committee for their work. Penny Miller was thrilled that new members of St. Mark have offered to serve. We have a new position: Church School representative and this is going to be filled by Kate Greer-Close.

A motion to accept the slate as put forward by the Nominating Committee was moved by Penny Miller seconded by John Hancock **CARRIED**

Thanks were offered to the Nominating Committee for their work.

RECEPTION OF ALL 2018 REPORTS

A motion to receive was moved by Joy Bowerman, seconded by Wes Adams.

The following additions and corrections were noted:

Ariane Dind noted the following omissions from the Choir Report-

We gave a plaque to Ray Davidson in celebration of his fifty years of service as a member of the St. Mark's choir.

Thank you to Jenny Morphew for handing out and sorting music scores and taking care of our substantial music library, for posting the hymn numbers on the hymn board, for keeping our choir robes organized and thank you to Ray Davidson, for his work as webmaster of the St Mark's choir blog, for finding and sending out practice recordings of choir repertoire and for representing the choir at Parish Council.

Wellness Committee: pg. 11 2nd paragraph should read AED

Eldercare: pg. 8 at bottom add "find it on the St. Mark's website"

Mother's Union: pg. 27 Mother's Union Boutique and Toys at the Bazaar add Jeremy Close

Screening in Faith: pg. 28 remove Parish Nurse from the list

Synod Report: last line of the hymn "spread His liberating word"

Vestry 2017 Minutes: pg. 42 1st paragraph- filled not filed

A motion to receive as amended was moved by James Kelly, seconded by John Hancock.

LENTEN OUTREACH 2018

The charitable outreach chosen is Cornerstone Princeton Project. Parishioners were reminded that they can direct donations to other charities of their choice.

Acceptance was moved by Bruce Lodge and seconded by Cynthia Greer. **CARRIED**

APPOINTMENT OF BANK

Joy Bowerman moved that St. Mark's continue using TD Canada Trust at Emerald Plaza as the financial institution of choice for the coming year. Motion was seconded by Jenny Morphew. **CARRIED**

OTHER BUSINESS

The Auditors for 2018 are Joanne Pagani and Steve Coaker

MOTIONS OF THANKS

Joy Bowerman offered thanks to Karen Barber and Gillian Morris for their steadfast duties in the Church office.

Margaret Lodge offered thanks to Joanne Pagani for taking care of the bicycle sales.

Kate Greer-Close offered thanks to all of her cookie bakers.

A thanks was given by Steve Close on behalf of the 63rd Scouts for providing them with storage space.

Joy Bowerman offered thanks to Lyn Mani for printing and folding our Sunday Bulletins.

On behalf of the Altar Guild Penny Miller offered thanks to Joy Bowerman for her work on the new banners, chasubles etc.

Carol Dicks offered thanks to Rev. Jessica for having joined us. Jessica is an inspirational and motivational rector.

Thanks was offered by Margaret Williamson to Kate Greer-Close and the children of St. Mark's. Appreciation was also offered to Margaret Lodge for her maintenance of E-Prayer.

Joy Bowerman offered thanks to the wardens for their gift of time and attention and also their fortitude to take on those duties.

Ray Davidson offered thanks for the Coffee Crews.

Thanks was offered by Rev. Jessica to both Paul Greer. She also thanked Margaret Lodge for the newsletter which is a work of art.

Thanks was offered by Margaret Lodge to Penny Miller who's service as Warden is finished and to others who have finished terms on Parish Council. Margret also thanked the whole parish for their support of the Vitality Committee and of Bruce Lodge as Warden and during his work on the Stewardship campaign.

MOTION OF ADJOURNMENT

A motion of adjournment was made by Joy Bowerman at 12:13pm. **CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted by **Janis, Perkin**, Vestry Clerk February 25, 2018

Addendum

St Marks 72nd Ottawa Scouting Report

Our numbers for this season (2018-2019) are as follows:

Beavers: 10 Cubs: 15 Venturers: 3

Scouts: 5 – NOTE due to low numbers our Scouts are meeting this year with the 115th Parkwood Hill Scouts

As noted, our Scouts section has been meeting this year with the 115th Scouts, due to low numbers of leaders and youth. At this time, it looks like this will continue next year as our number or registered Scouts is still low.

We are still without a Group Commissioner for the 72nd. The group is being administered again this year by the 115th Ottawa. Our search for a new Group Commissioner continues. Henry Starzynski is serving as the Group Administrator for the 72nd.

We run a limited summer program last year with a meeting in each of June, July and August.

Our group assisted with the Remembrance service on November 11, and with the pancake dinner last spring. Additionally, we have enjoyed the use of the kitchen for cooking, and the basement for projects and storage of our gear. We freed up space in our locker for the Guides (which I know they greatly appreciated)

We have done a number of community outreach activities with the Beavers, Cubs and Venturers this year

- Apple Day fundraiser
- Shoreline cleanup of Hogs Back Falls (the day after the September tornado storms in Ottawa)
- Cubs plan to visit Debra Dynes Food centre in March

Our Beavers and Cubs have had some great outings this year

- Ottawa Humane Society
- Loblaws Cooking School
- Scout Shop
- Drumming evening at Nepean Creative Arts Centre

We have 5 new leaders this year, which is fantastic for our group!

This year (2019) we will have a Family pot-luck & fundraiser on Sunday February 24th in the church hall.

Henry Starzynski
72nd Ottawa